STUFF AND NONSENSE.

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BY

A. B. FROST

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS
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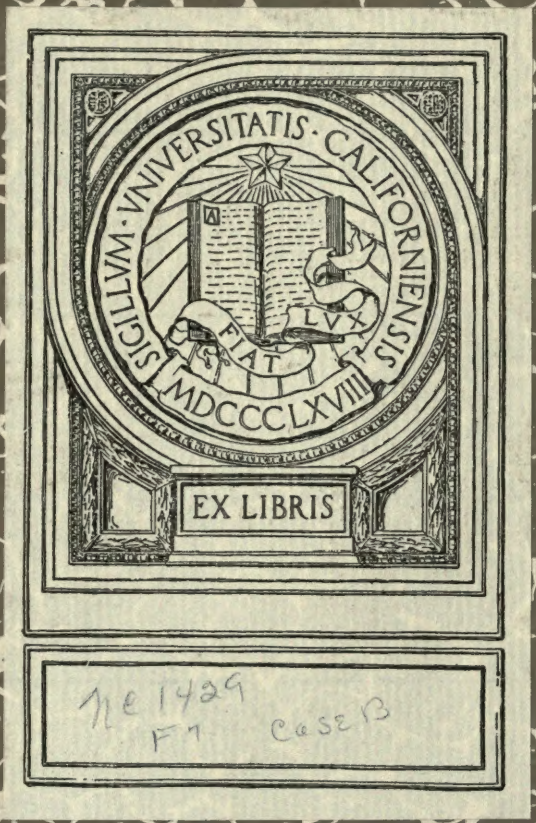

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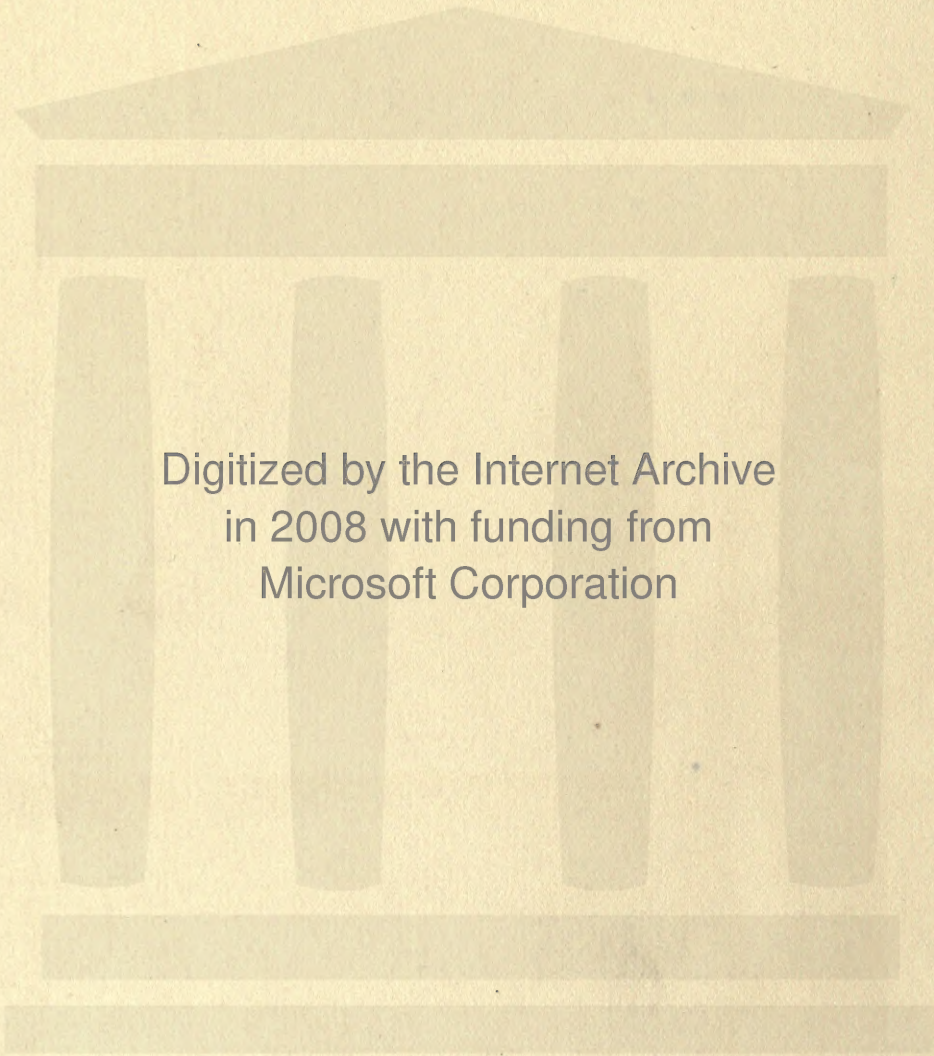
Xmas 1914

To Mary Lee Trigg
from
"Bobbee".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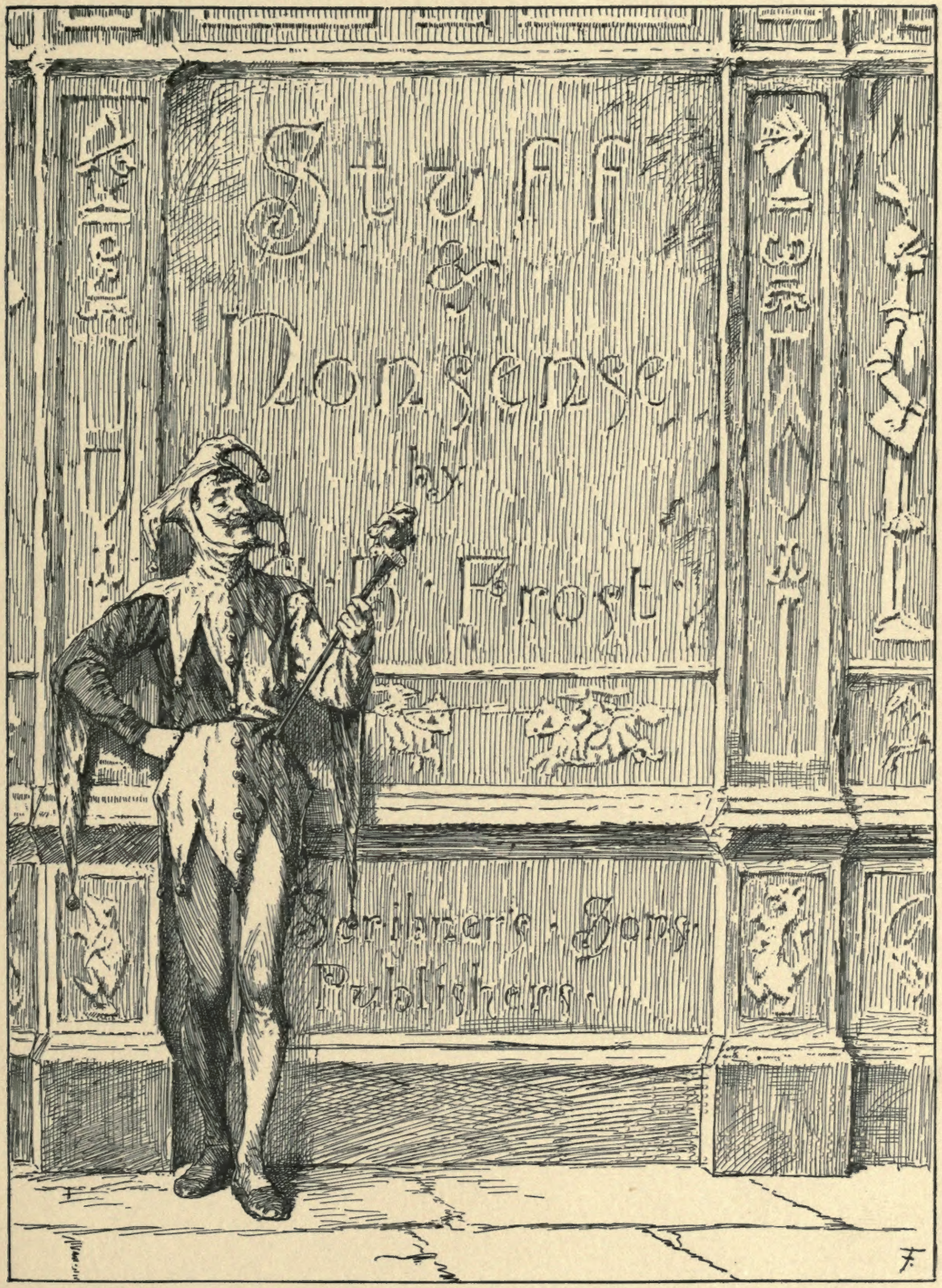
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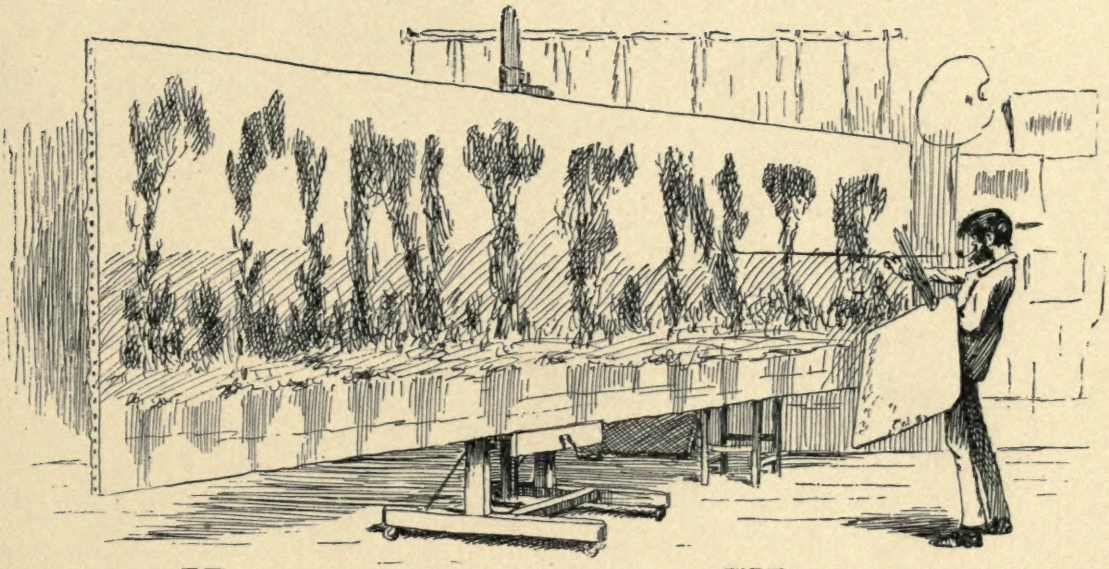

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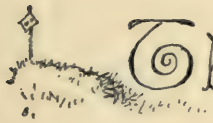
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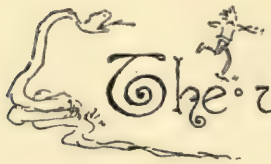
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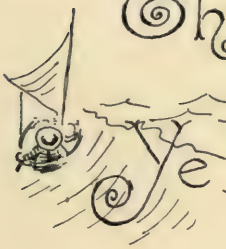

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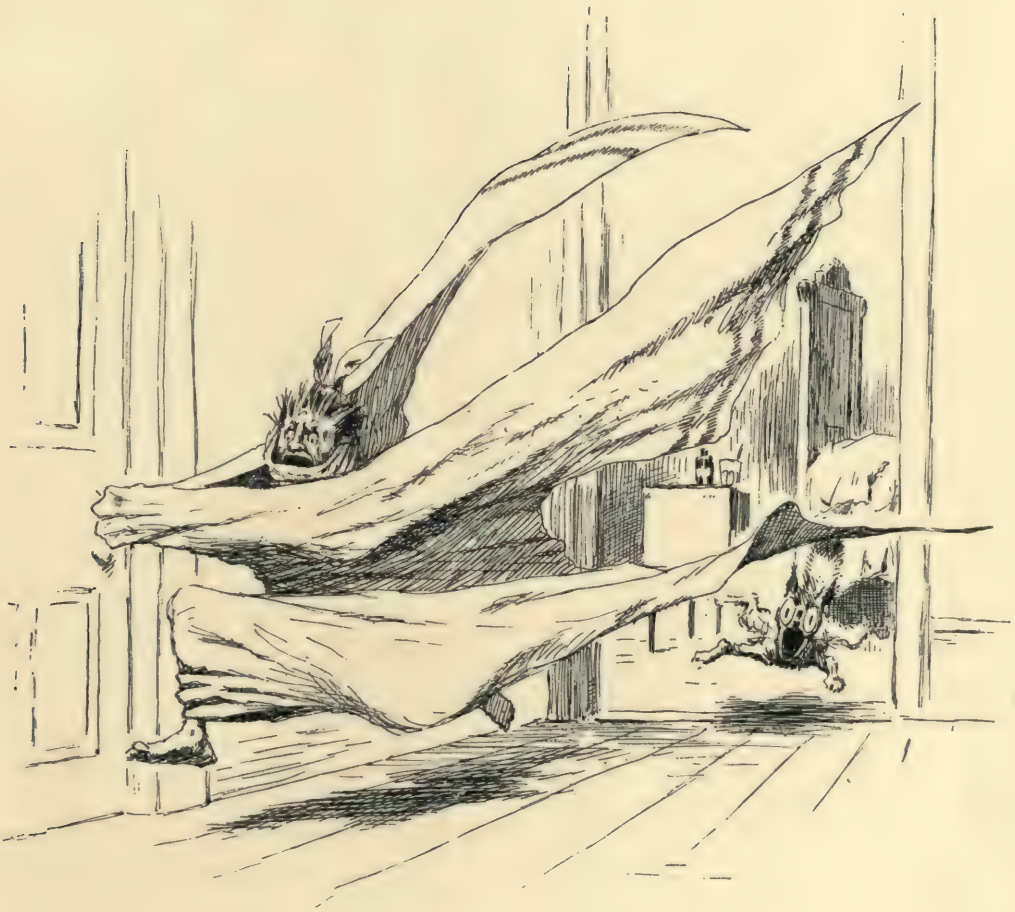
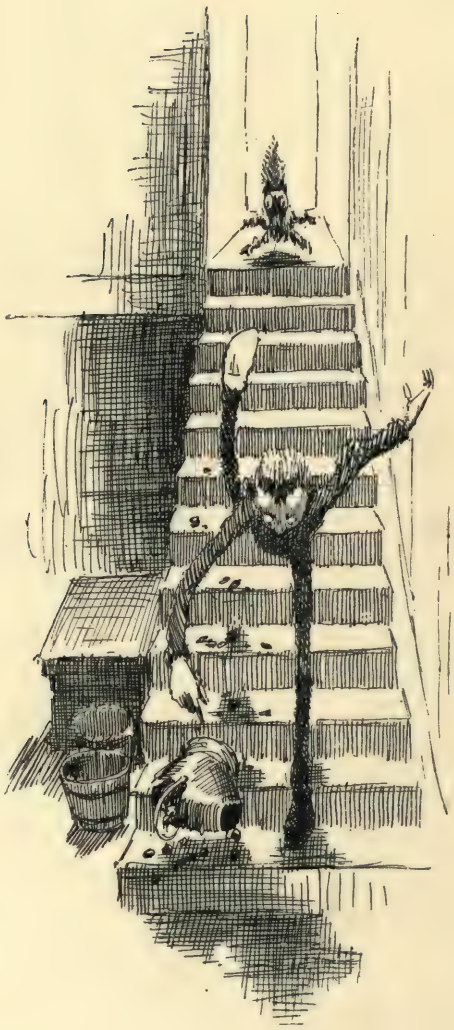
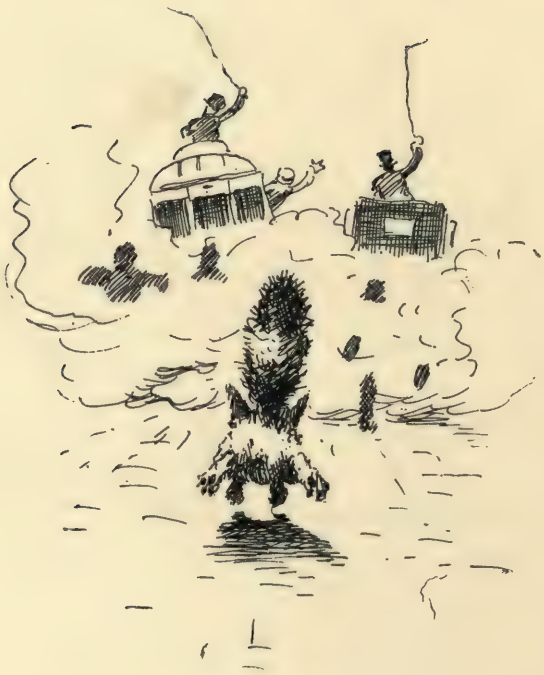
The Fatal Mistake

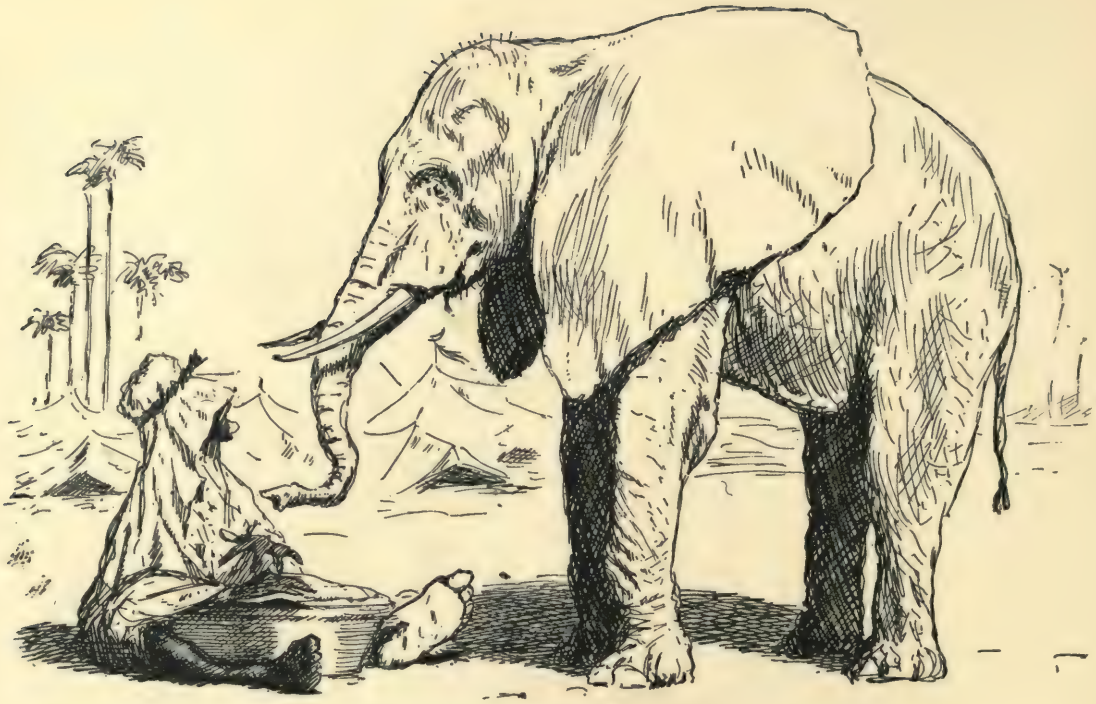
A Tale of a Cat

RAT
POISON









Said · this · Arab · boy · Really · now · why ·
Should · my · elephant · share · in · my · pie.
And · the · quadruped · thought ·
It · was · time · he · was · taught ·
So · proceeded · to · knock · him · sky · high ·

There · was · an · old · chap · in · Moriches ·
Who · put · patches · of · tin · on · his · breeches ·
When · asked · why · this · was ·
He · replied · "Oh · because ·
The're · pretty · sides · which · it · saves · stitches ·"

This · man · with · a · shiny · bald · head ·
Took · his · paper · and · quietly · read ·
Till · a · bee · with · a · sting ·
At · his · scalp · took · a · fling ·
When · he · said · things · much · better · unsaid ·

"Dear me!" Quoth this mule, "what's that crack?"
'Twas a cracker the first of a pack.
Since the second and third
And the others were heard
The critter has never come back.

This man in an amateur way
Went to taming a monkey one day.
"It is kindness," said he.
"That subdues it you see."
But they didn't perceive it they say.

Bobby · stole · of · green · apples · a · quart
By the · owner · thereof · he · was · sought ·
Those · green · apples · he · ate ·
And · he · wished · ah ! · too · late ·
That · when · chased · by · that · man · he'd · been · caught ·

There · was · a · musician · from · Brette ·
And · all · night · he · would · play · the · cornet ·
The · boarders · they · stood ·
All · they · possibly · could ·
But · one · morning · he · left · there · "you · bet!"

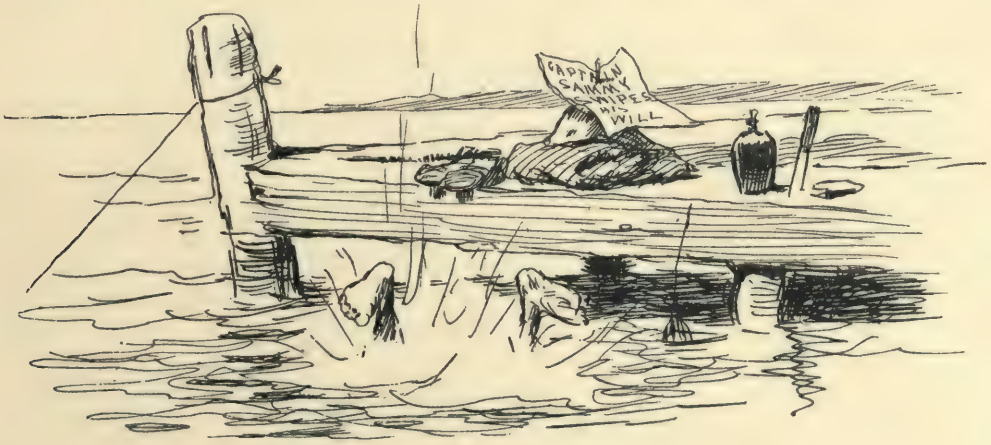
Ye Aesthete Ye Boy & Ye Bullfrog

TO BOSTON
10 MILES

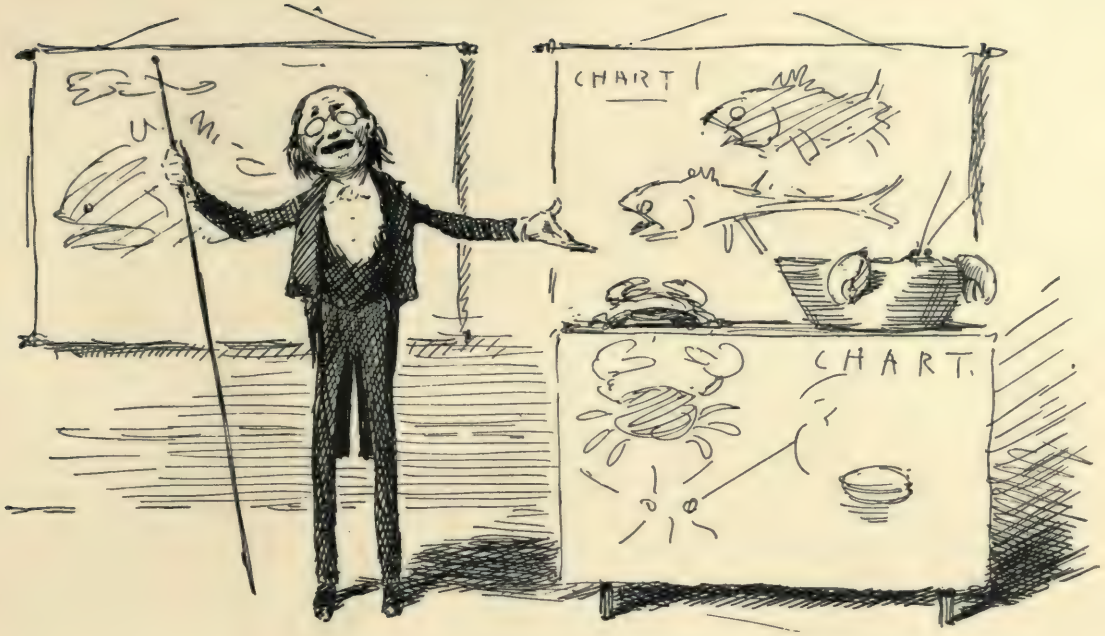
TO BOSTON
15
MILES

Tug • of • war • is • a • beautiful • game •
With • a • highly • belligerent • name •
But • be • careful • to • take •
A • rope • that • wont • break •
If • you • ever • indulge • in • the • same •

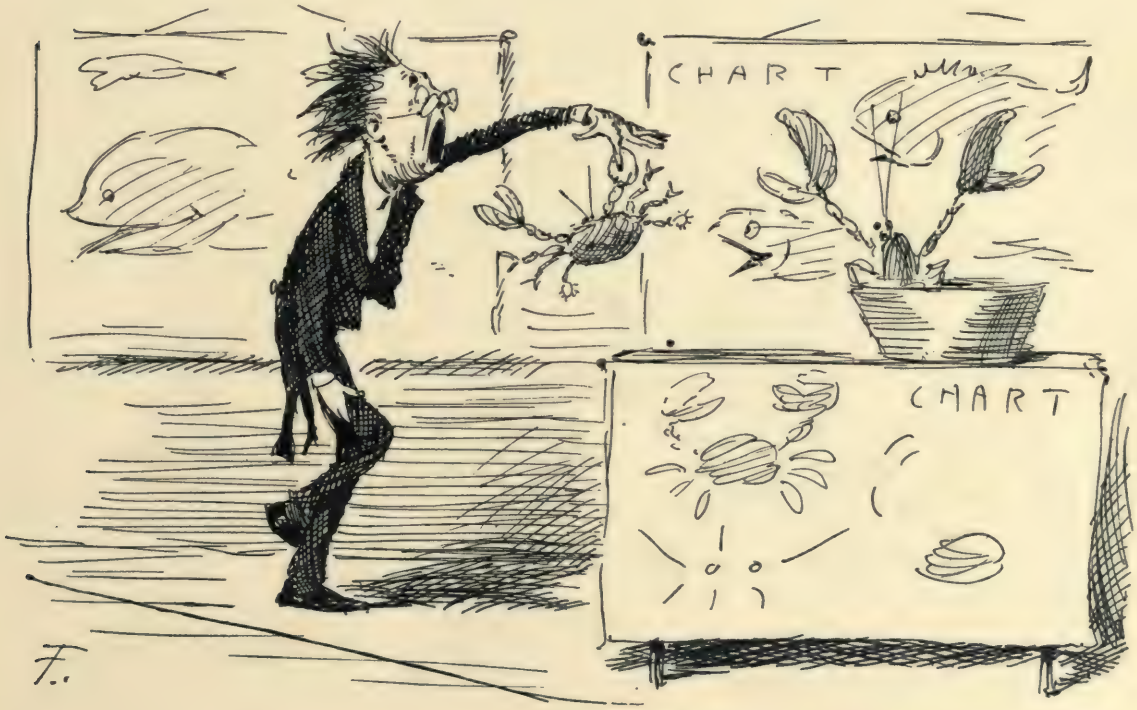
There · was · an · old · codger · who · said ·
"Quite · enough · of · this · hard life · I've · led ·
As · it's · nearly · high · tide ·
I'll · commit · suicide ·
I'll · be · far · better · off · when · I'm · dead !"



Said · this · boy · I · propose · to · arouse ·
Those · picturesque · pasturing · cows ·
Ah! · Wont · they · look · fine ·
As · these · rockets · of · mine ·
Career · through · the · spot · where · they · browse ·

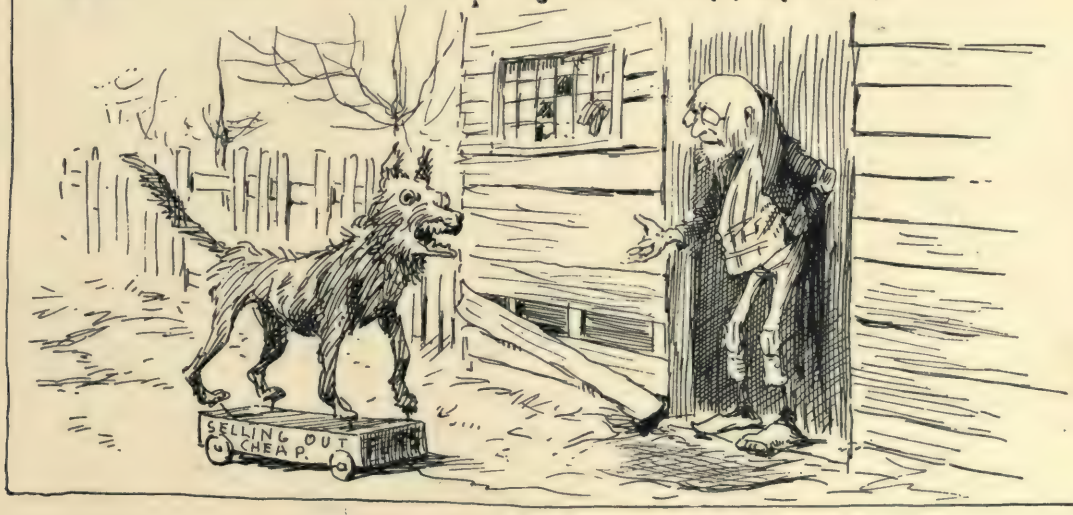


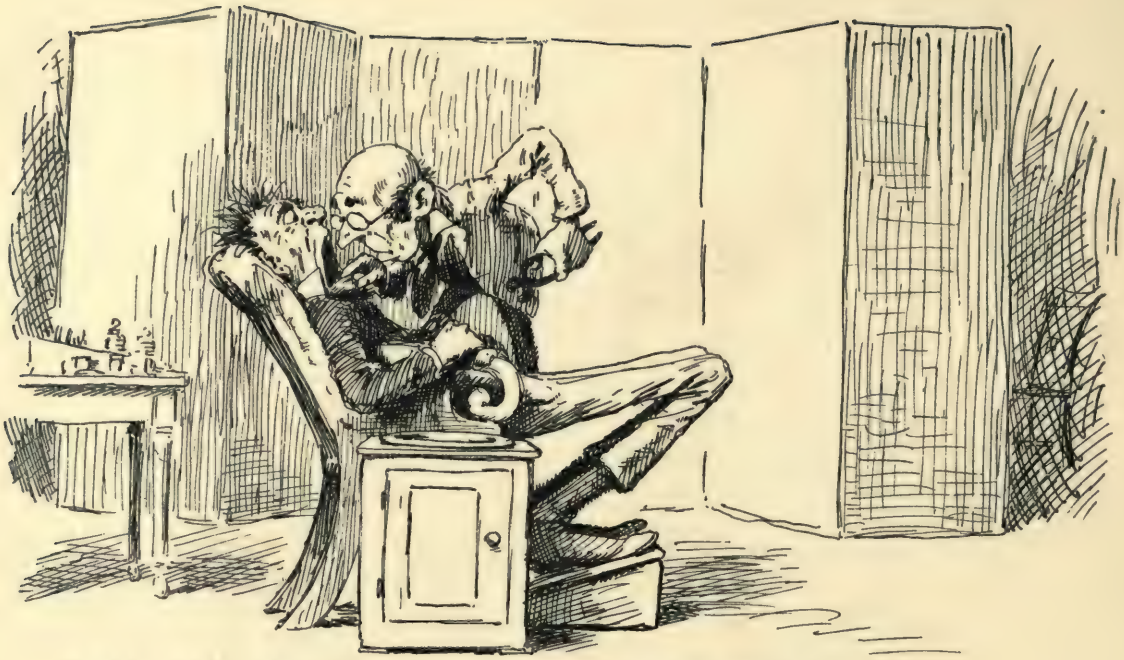
This · professor · selected · a · crab ·
And · observed · "You · will · notice · it · grab.
At · you · or · at · me."
They · replied "Yes · we · see ·
O! my! · It's · a · regular "dab"



This · gentleman · made · a · display ·
Of · his · talented · parrot · one · day
"It · bites · others," · said · he ·
"But · it · never · bites · me ·
But · the · bird · alas! gave · him · away ·

There · was · an · old · chap · in · Bay · Shore ·
And · he · said · "Of · red · gold · I've · a · store."
But · it · turned · out · alas! ·
That · his · gold · was · all · brass ·
And · would · not · keep · the · wolf · from · the · door ·

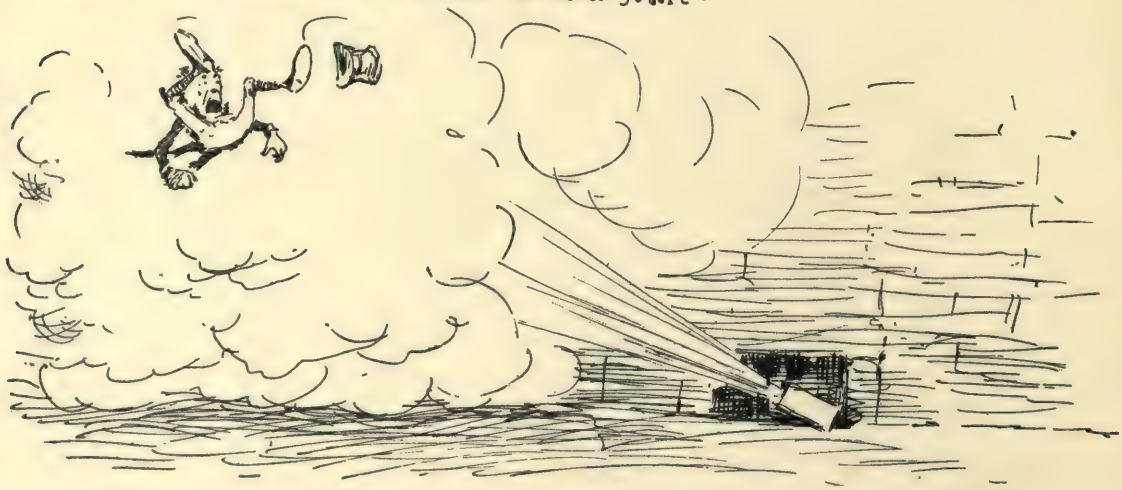


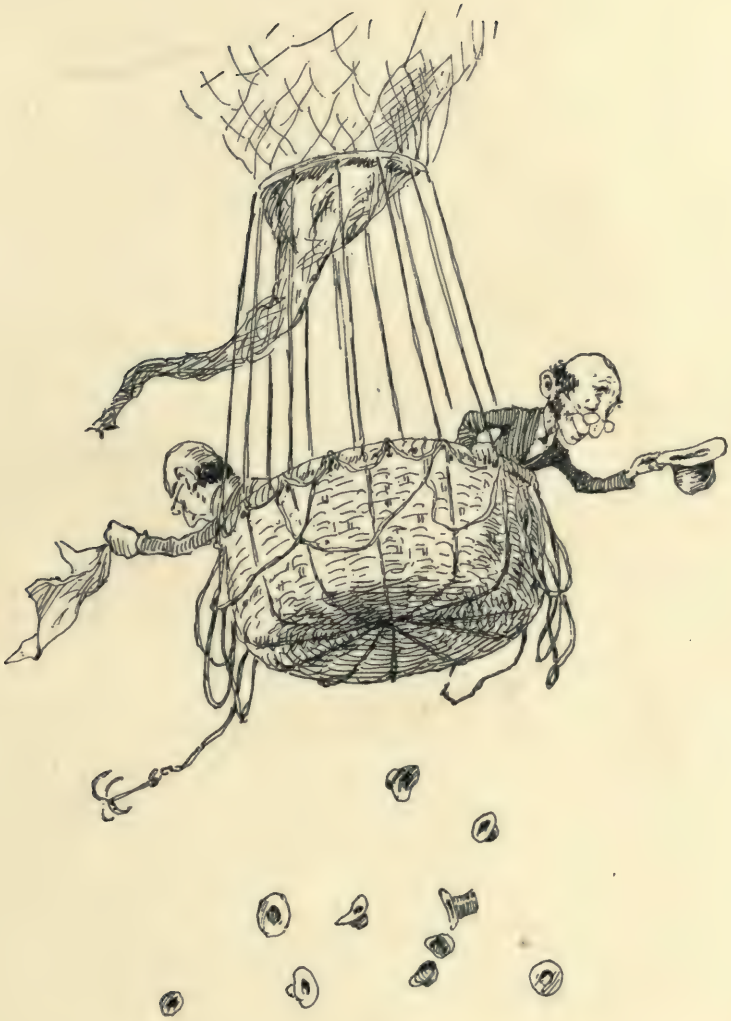


Said · this · old · "coon" · who · hailed · from · Duluth ·
To · the · Dentist · who · looked · at · his · tooth ·
"If · you'll · take · it · away ·
Quite · handsome · I'll · pay ·"
It · was · done : but · 'twas · grievous · in · sooth ·

This · ruffian · deadly · and · gruff ·
Thought · the · "old · un" · would · drop · quick · enough ·
But · the · scientist · read ·
From · what · science · has · said ·
And · completly · demolished · the · rough ·

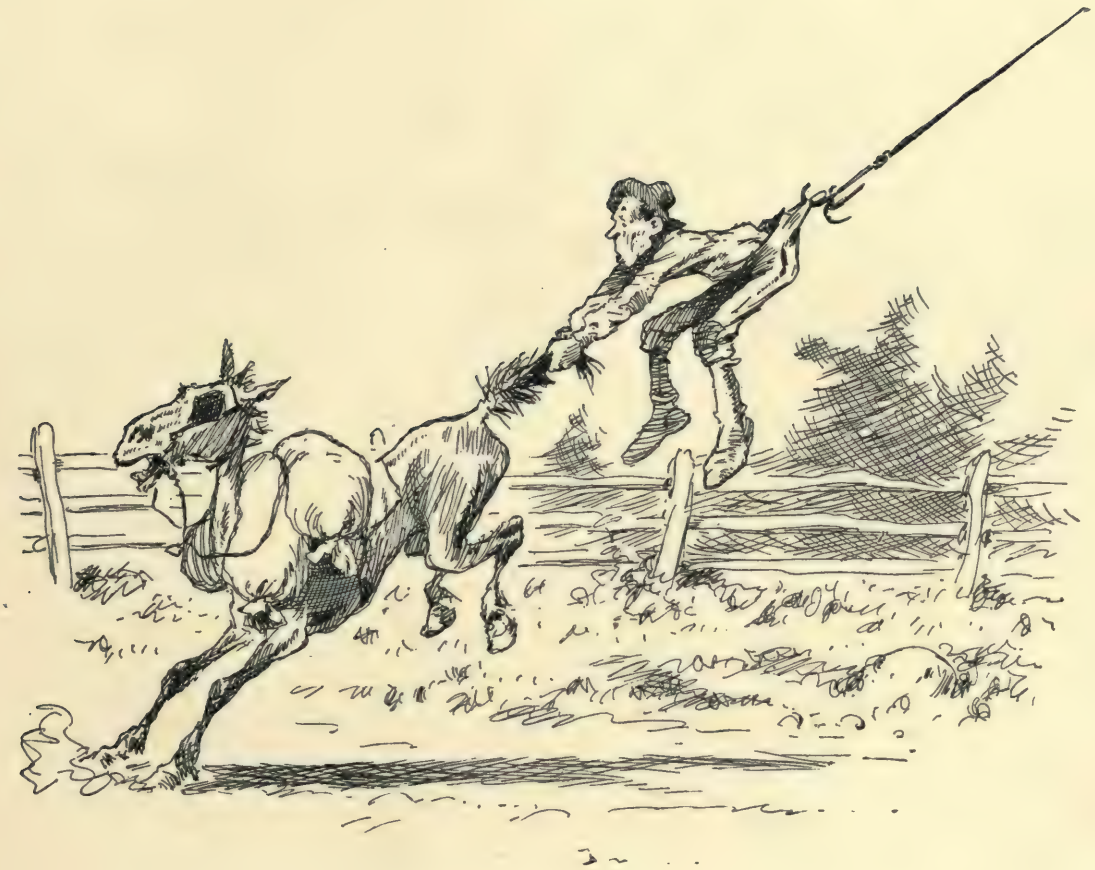
This · dynamite · fiend · to · prepare ·
His · explosive · took · requisite · care ·
But · neglecting to get ·
The · things · properly · set ·
He · received · I'm · afraid · a · bad · scare ·

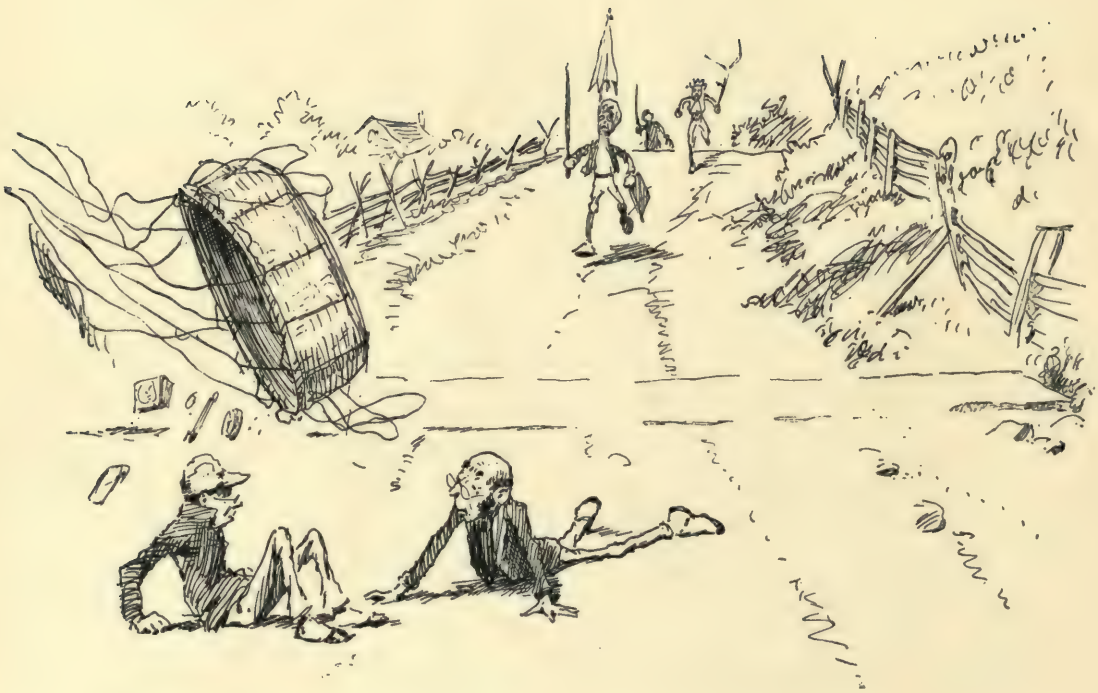




The Balloonists

SAND

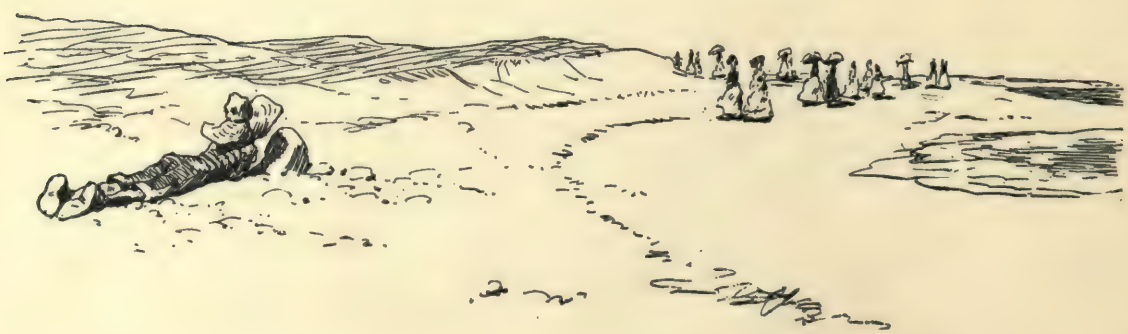




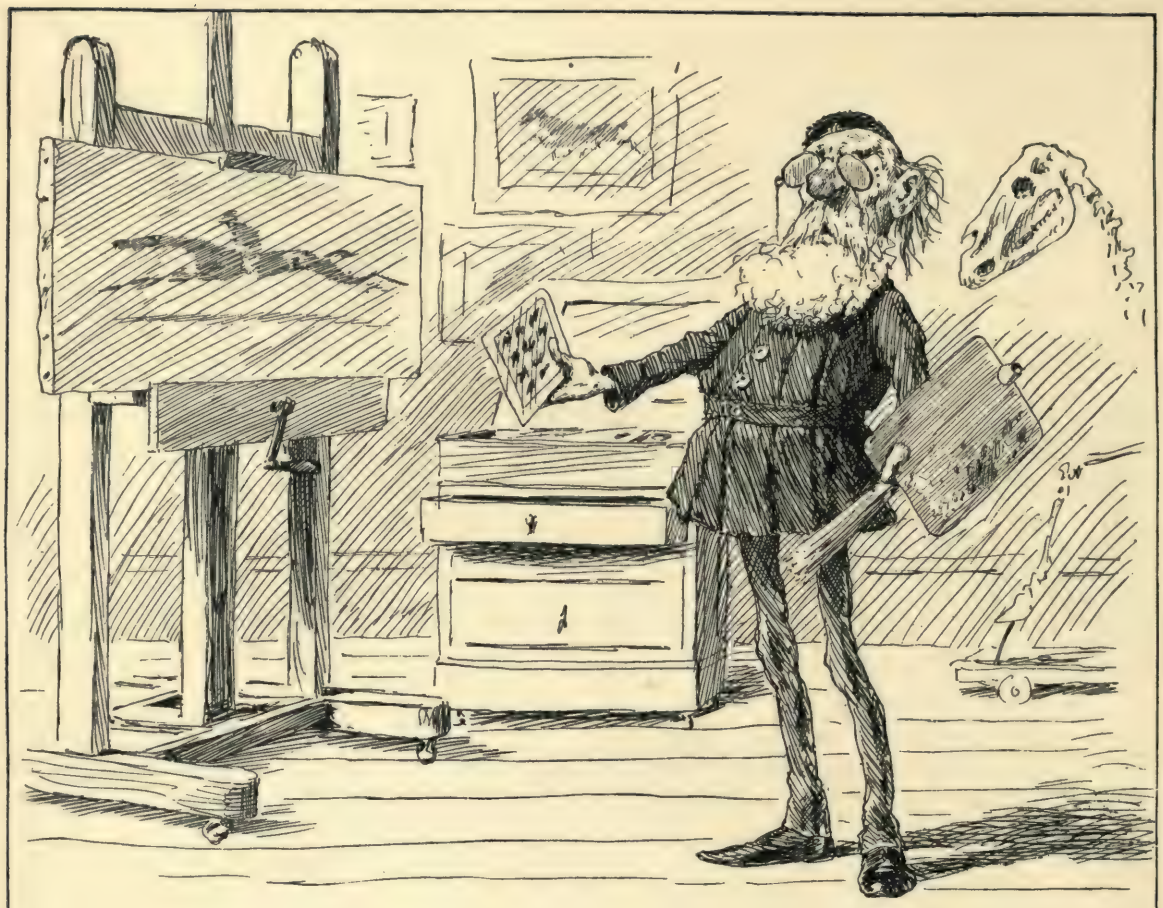
There was an old daddy in Troy
Who said "I'm no longer a boy
But I'll bet I can show
You chaps how to go"
Which he did to his own savage joy

In its zigzag mysterious flight
A moth is not easy to smite.
This gent thought he could bring
One down on the wing.
But his views were erroneous. Quite.

"Said this person who hails from Glen Cove
As the beach is quite empty I'll rove."
He hadn't gone far
When his unlucky star
Ran him into young girls quite a drove.



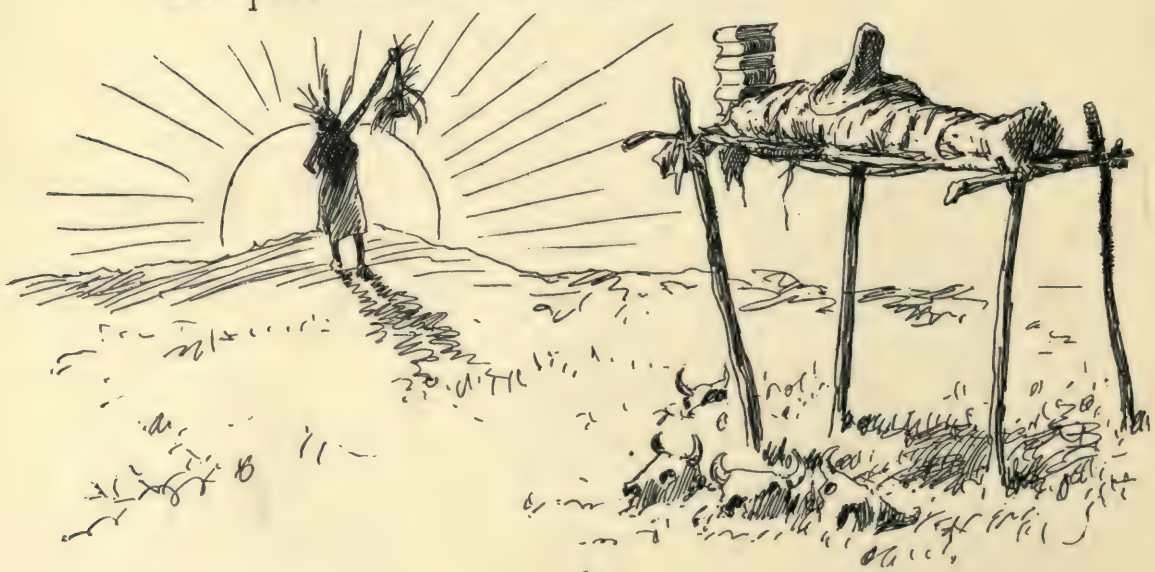
Said this duffer "My dear let us see
What that curious ball there can be
Why its hornets I swear
Of yourself love take care
This umbrella will answer for me"



Said this artist "Now dont you suppose
An intelligent man like me Knows
How a horse ought to go
Yet you say I dont know
And believe what a photograph shows:"

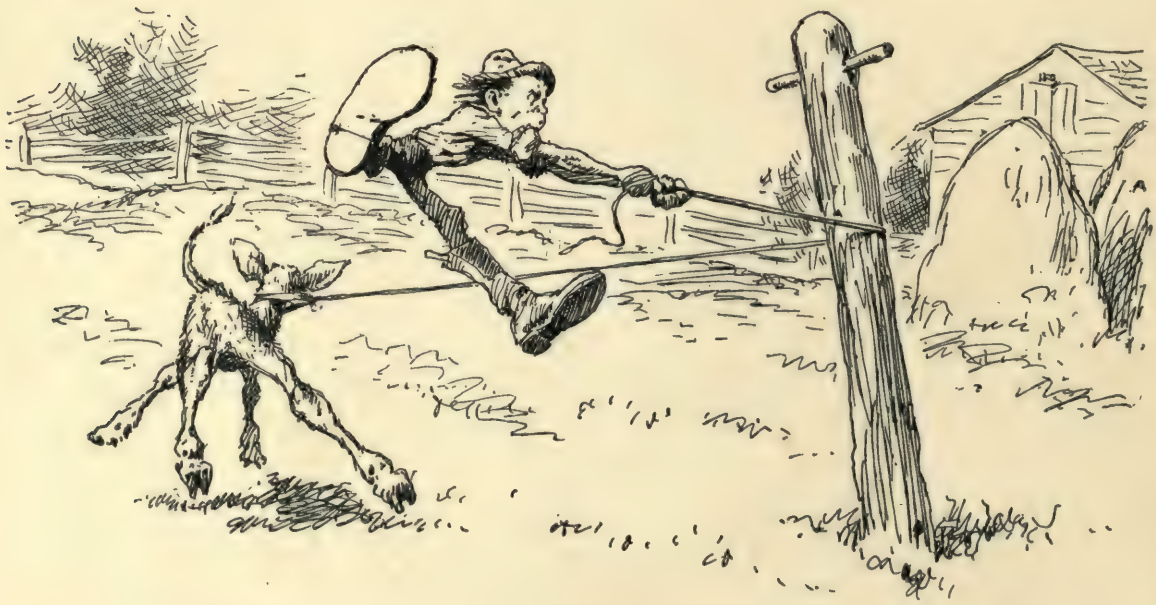
Said this little black darky: O my
If I only had wings and could fly
On dat wall I would set
And de peaches I'd get
He flew but he flew most too high

This · poet · supposed · if · he · gave
His · works · to · an · indian · brave.
The · red · man · would · melt ·
With · the · joy · that · he · felt ·
The · poet · alas · fills · the · grave.



"Now · hang · me" · this · wild · Cow Boy · said ·
"I'll · rush · in · and · paint · the · town · red"
But · alas · for · his · plan ·
He · encountered · a · man ·
Who · buried him ..... 'cause · he · was · dead:

This old lady said "Johnnie come here
And waber the caffy my dear."
The calf was unbied
And to lead him John tried.
But it gave him some trouble we fear.



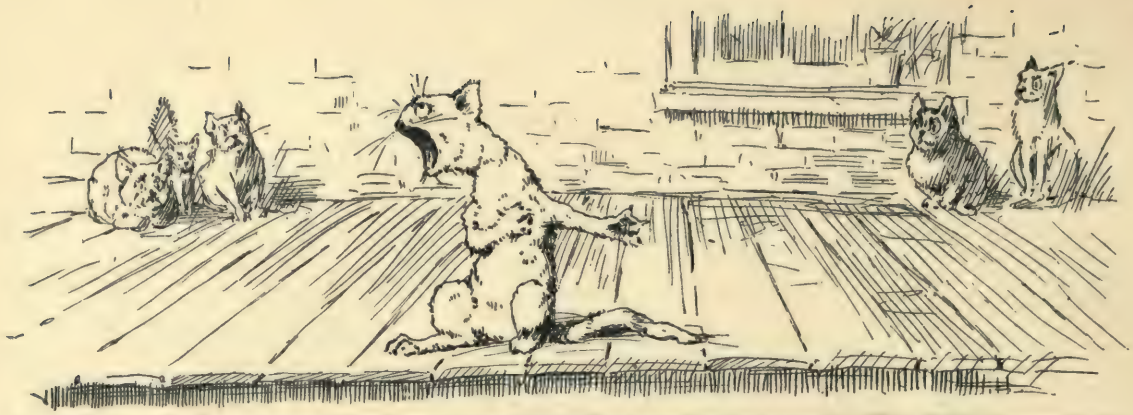
Said this man While I wait I will see
What this curious object can be
He went back with a yell
When the curtained thing fell
And since has not seen an M.D.

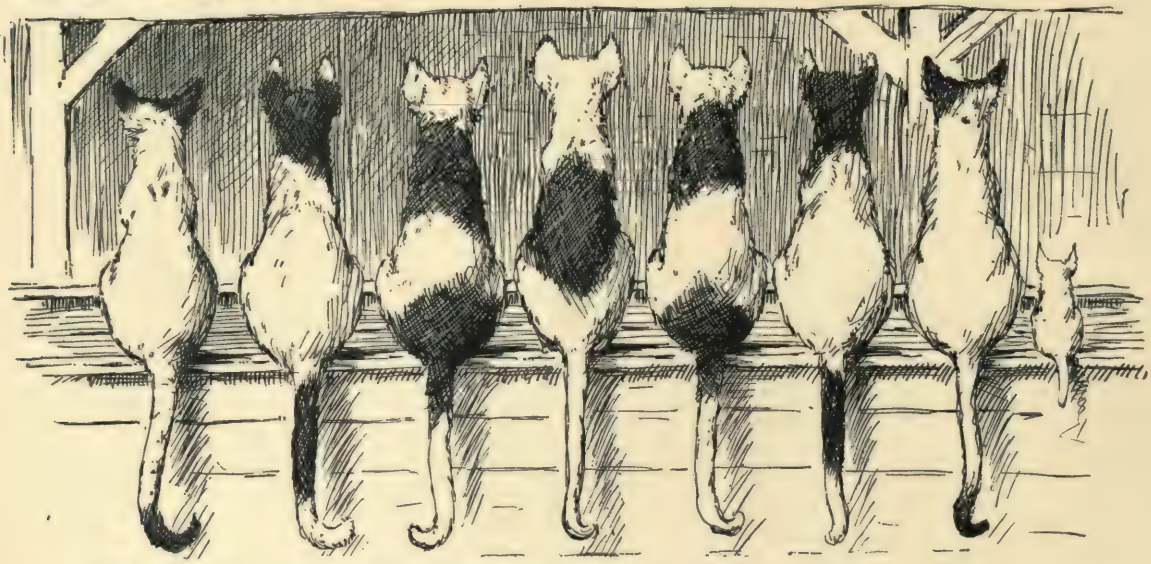
This · remarkably · large · Kangaroo ·
Saw · his · chance · to · escape · from · the · Zoo ·
{He took it you bet ·
Or · he'd · been · in · there · yet ·}
And · he · then · through · the · multitude · flew ·

There was a young man in Montclair
Who said "I've that freedom from care
(Let it be understood)
Comes to only the good
For I neither smoke drink chew nor swear."

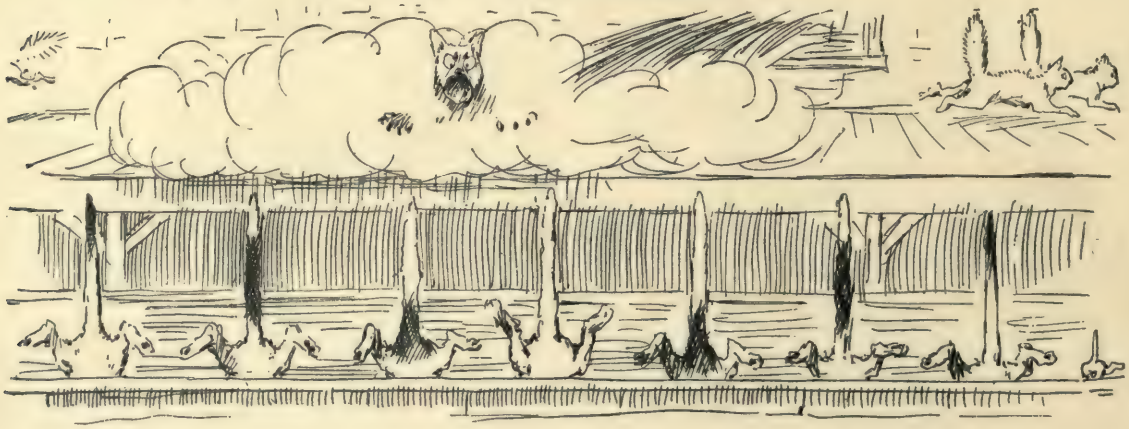
This · fisherman · said · "What · a · lark ·
"I · will · bait · and · will · angle · for · shark ·
They · pull · it · is · true ·
'Tis · a · fact · that · they · do ·"
And · they · quite · verified · the · remark ·

This wolf of this shepherd boy said.
"I will quiet him now till he's dead."
But a high note occured.
And when it was heard
The wolf dropped the subject and fled.





There was an old cat named Maria.
Who to sing to high "C" did aspire.
In the midst of her wails
Came of water two pails
Which had previously been near the fire.



The Power of the Human Eye

He reads an article in a newspaper on the power which some people possess of quelling the most savage beasts by simply looking them steadily in the eye. He is convinced he possesses that power and resolves to make experiments.

He tries it on his wife.

When he regains consciousness it strikes him he must have failed; "possibly it was because I only used <u>one</u> eye," he said.

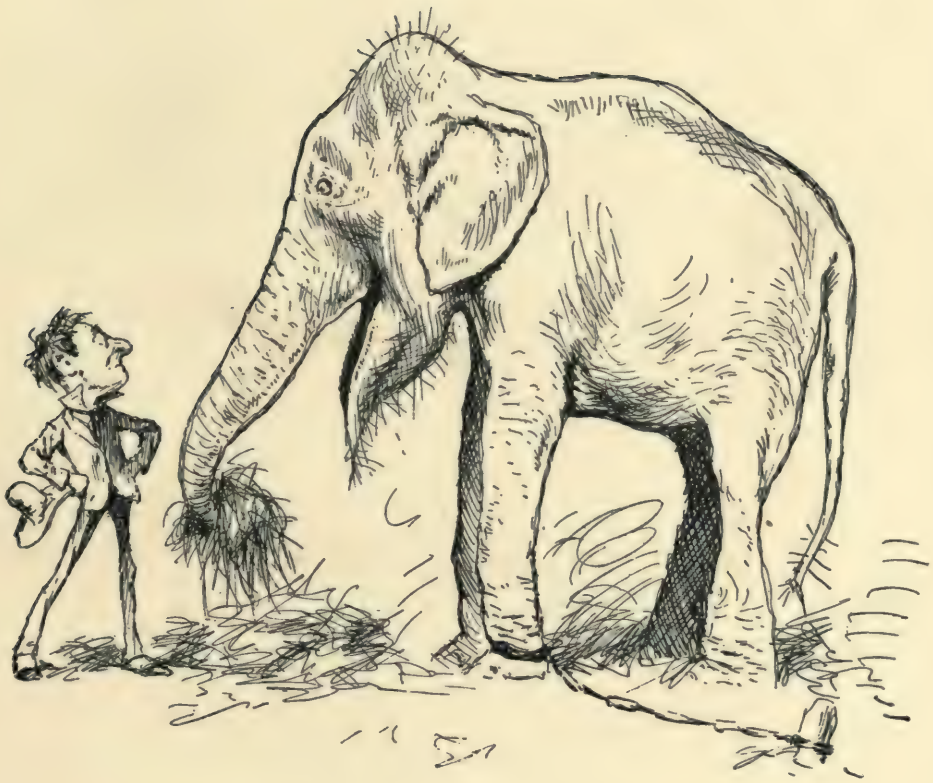
His wife's pet terrier succumbs promptly and he feels more confident.

He tries it on the chambermaid—

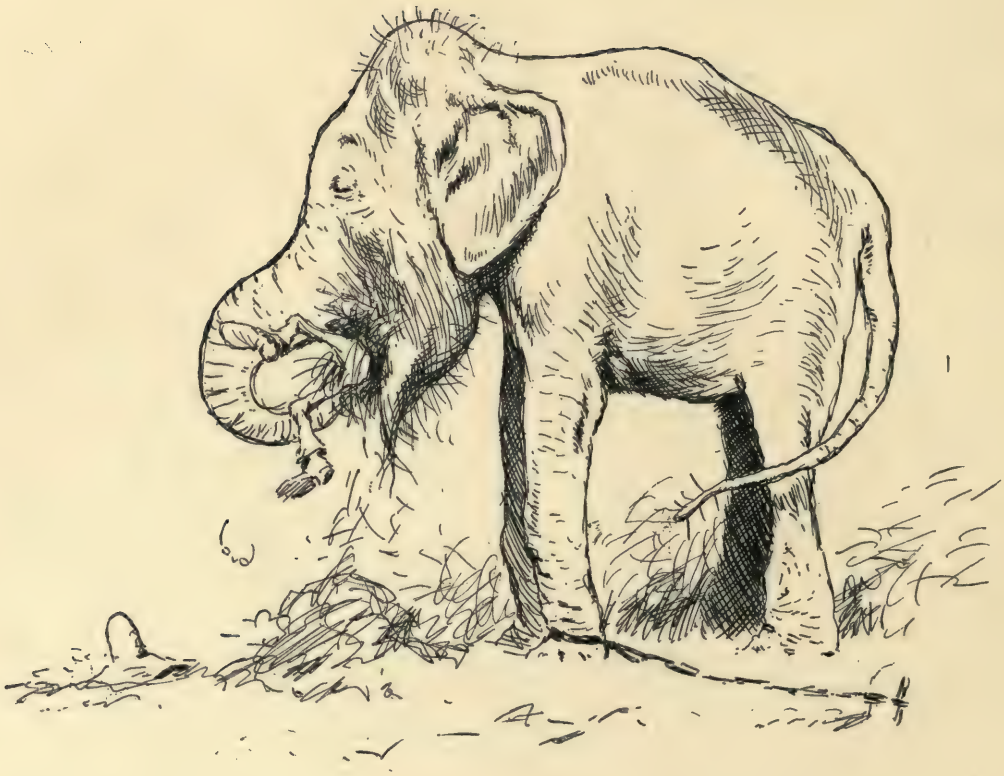
With rather disheartening results.

The parrot does not seem to yield as it might, either—

—but the cook's small boy shows most encouraging results.



He determines to make a great effort and seeks big game, he puts forth all his power—



—but, alas, fails once more.

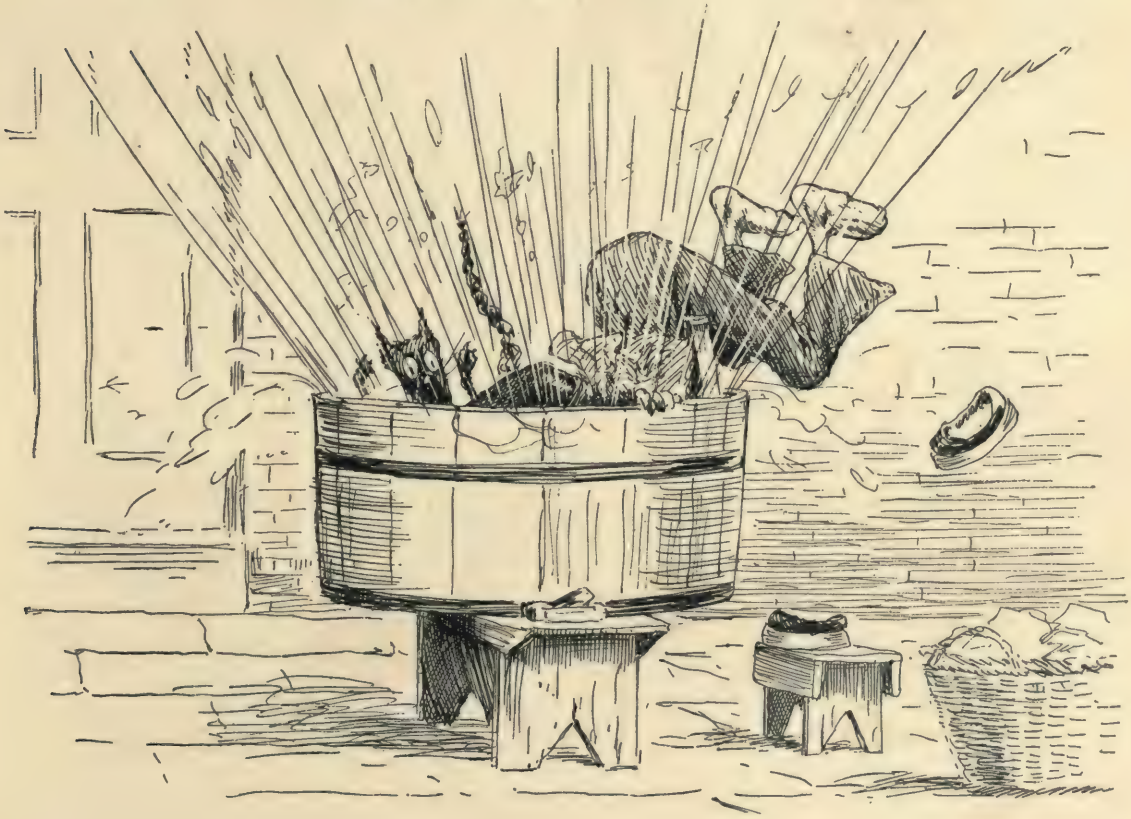
This · musical · man · thought · that · he
Had · a · seat · on · the · stump · of · a · tree ·
He · performed · in · a · way
That · could · move · one · they · say
But · the · tree · could · move · too · as · you · see ·

There · was · a · young · man · from · Broadstairs
Who · went · out · one · day · to · hunt · bears.
He · found · them · indeed.
But · it · made · his · heart · bleed.
For · he · came · on · them · quite · unawares.

Quoth this tramp with the Bowie "O ho
For that old snoozer there I'll lay low."
But the time honored Dick
Like a cyclone could kick
And the tramp never got any show:

These · nurses · could · never · see · why ·
Their · prices · were · thought · to · be · high
When · invited · to · go ·
A · trifle · below ·
To · skip · was · their · only · reply ·

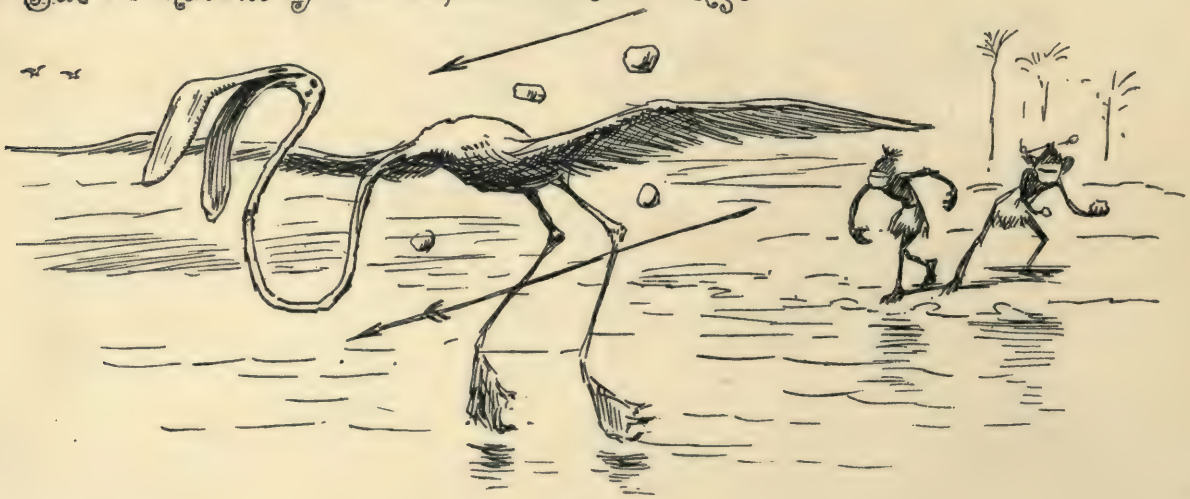
This tom cat exclaimed "O ho ho
For that pudding I'll quietly go"
He was grieved and surprised
When the dish all capsized
And so was the party below;



"This corpulent lunatic cried.
By gravy I'm going to slide."
But he slipt and he fell.
And his friends couldn't tell.
Where he went to though vainly they tried;

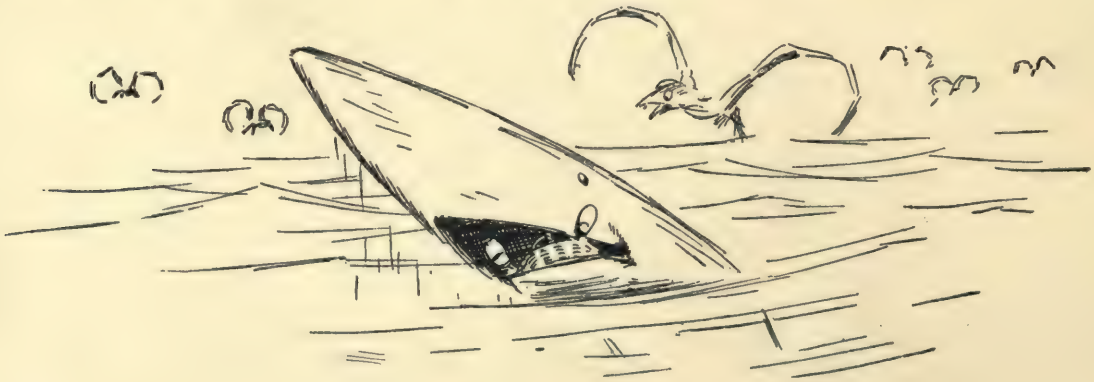
Said · this · snuff · taking · Turk · "Why · with · ease ·
I · can · stifle · the · noisiest · sneeze."
But · at · Mosque · one · sad · day ·
His · control · all · gave · way ·
And · he · startled · his · friends · on · their · Knees:

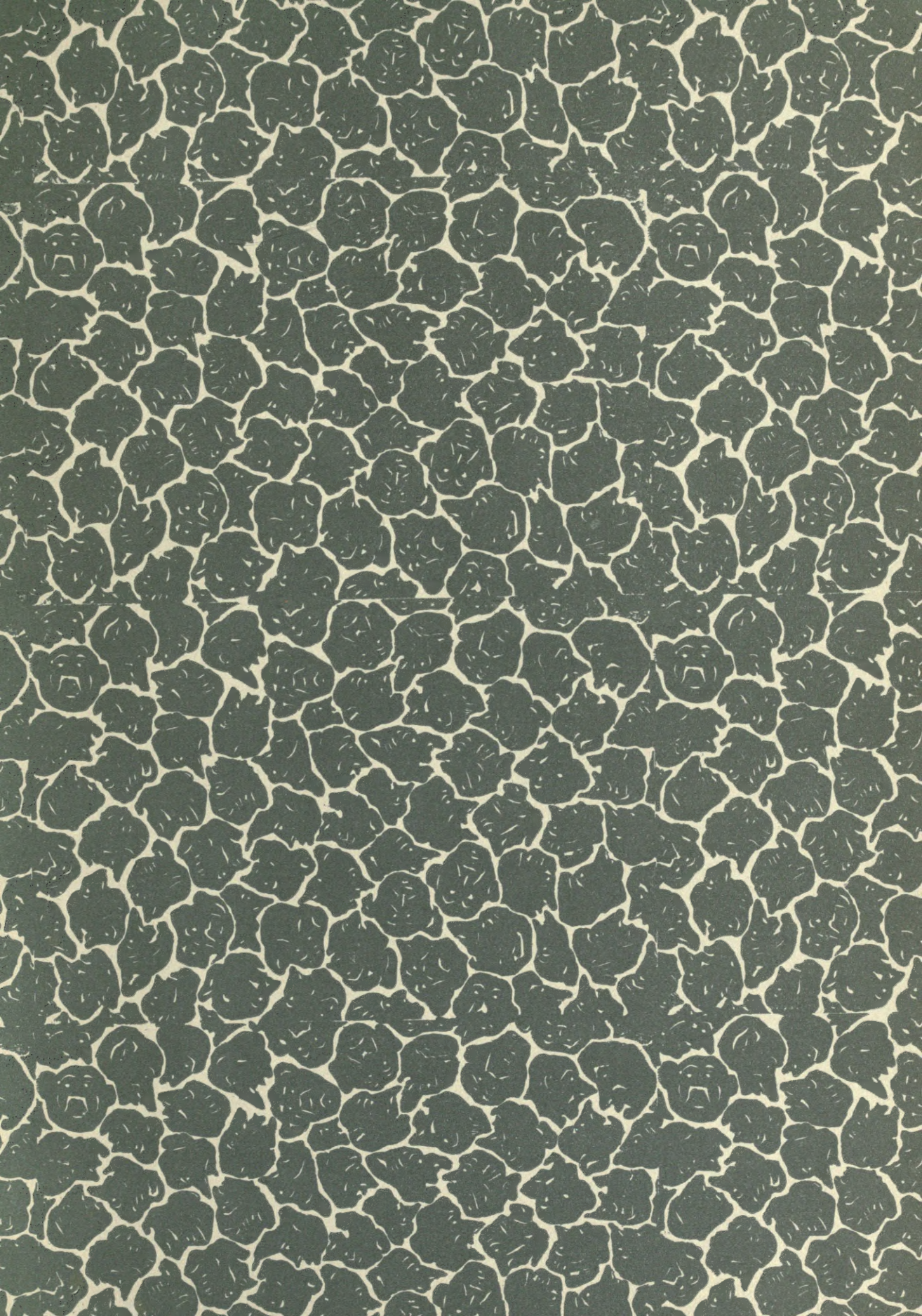
There · once · was · a · tall · red · flamingo ·
Who · said · "By · the · great · jumping · Jingo ·
I've · been · in · this · clime ·
An · uncommon · long · time ·
But · I · havent · yet · mastered · their · lingo"



This·old·lunatic·said"Now·I·trust
That·the·chain·of·that·bull-dog·wont·bust"·
But·when·it·gave·way·
He·said"Bless·me·good·day
I·dont·want·to·leave·but·I·must":

There was an old salt in Nantasket
Set sail for Siam in a basket.
When a thumping big shark
Swallowed him and his bark.
Was not that a fine burial casket?





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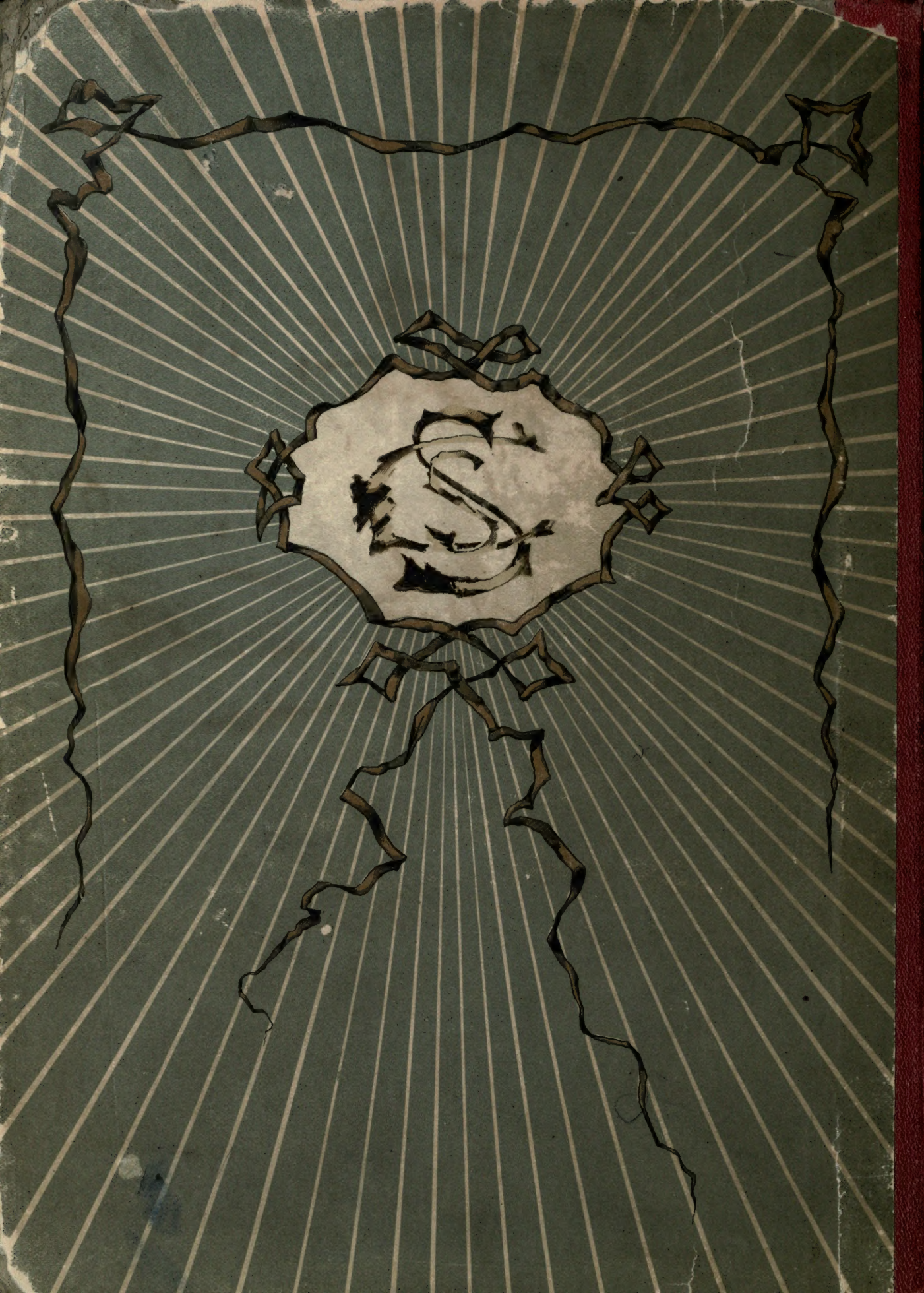
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